be exported to Japan during 1992-93 would result in some loss in foreign exchange earnings, but would conserve our stock of high grade Bailadila iron ore.

Renewal of Iron Ore contract with Japan

1833. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the Observer of the 15th January, 1992 under the caption "Renewal of iron ore contract with Japan-trip cancelled on Prime Minister's orders";

(b) whether it is a fact that the trip by an Indian delegation was cancelled by Prime Minister;

(c) if so, what were the reasons therefor?

(d) whether it is a fact that a delegation subsequently left for Japan to negotiate terms for sale of iron ore; and

(e) whether un-restricted exports of iron ore to Japan will affect the needs of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Government has seen the press report, under reference.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The visit of the Indian delegation to Japan for negotiations with Japanese Steel Mills for export of iron ore during 1992-93 was only postponed by a few days from the middle of January, 1992 to 21st January, 1992.

(e) Requirements of domestic consumers, including Vizag Steel Plant, have been kept in view while finalising contract volume for export of iron ore to Japan for 1992-93.

Export of Ayurvedic Unani and Siddha Medicines

1834. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a tremendous increase in export of Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha drugs during the year 1991-92;

(b) if so, what is Government's action plan to nourish such companies and to make available the required support; and

(c) how much foreign exchange has been earned from such export during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The value of export of Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha Medicines / drugs is indicated below:

1988-89		Rs. 6.47 Crores.
1989-90		Rs. 2.92 Crores.
1990-91		Rs. 7.29 Crores.
1991-92		Rs. 1.90 Crores.
(April to	January)	

Although many of the Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha medicines have export potential, exports of these medicines have not been very significant, particularly due to problems connected with lengthy and cumbersome procedure for registration of drugs laid down by the health authorities of overseas countries. Moreover, the manufacturers of Ayurvedic Unani and Siddha Medicines do not have the same kind of clinical data to back their products up as is available for allopathic medicines. Many countries have restrictions on use of this group of medicines because of presence of Metal Oxides in them.

In order to popularise the use of Ayurvedic medicines in overseas countries, the Basic Chemical Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL) Bombay, in association with a renowned Ayurvedic Research Centre have prepared a monograph on "Selected Medicinal plants" for publicity abroad and are undertaking all other usual export promotion measures such as sending promotional teams abroad and arranging buyer-seller meets, etc. to boost exports from this sector.

Price of Mica fixed by MITCO

1835. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the floor prices fixed by MITCO for the different categories of Mica; and

(b) what is the latest position of export orders of Mica?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

(SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Minimum export prices fixed by MITCO for export of different categories of mica scrap of Bihar and Andhra/Rajasthan origin are as under:

Price in USS/MT (FOB Indian Main Ports) *Grades of Mica Scrap*

Origin	1/2" & up	3/4" & up	1" & up	Green	Factory cuttings
Bihar	498.13	548.13	598.13	—	548.13
Andhra/ Rajasthan	395.00	435.00	474.38 548.13		263.20

Over and above the prices indicated above; 15% premium is being charged for Crushed Mica Scrap.

(b) Export orders in hand with MITCO as on 29th February, 1992 for mica scrap are reported to be worth Rs. 2.34 crores.

Abolition of Posts of Controllers

1836. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as part of implementation of Mathew Committee report, Class-I posts of Controllers were abolished in 1969-70 in anticipation of the Constitution of Central Trade Service;

(b) whether it is a fact that the actual induction in the C.T.S. was done after ten years;

(c) whether this delayed induction has resulted in loss of Class I service which resulted in non-eligibility of certain officers to the posts equal in rank of Directors and Joint Secretaries; and

(d) If so, the action proposed to be taken to condone the delay on the part of Government and granting one time relaxation to such officers in the interests of their career prospects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A study team headed by Shri H.C. Mathur had gone into the working of the Import and Export Trade Control Organisation and had recommended *inter alia* abolition of Class I posts of Controllers. The Committee also recommended creation of a regular Central Service to provide for the needs of the organisation. The Class I posts of Controllers were abolished in 1970. However, the interests of the incumbents of these posts were protected by grant of Class I status as personal to them.

The Central Trade Service was formally notified in August 1977 and the process of initial induction was completed in November, 1979.

(a) and (d) Since Class I status of the incumbents of posts of Controllers was protected the question of loss of Class I service does not arise.

Effect of Raids on Godowns of Rice exporters on exports

1837. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently sealing of the godown of Rice Exporters by Delhi Administration has badly affected the rice export from the country; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to ensure that the export of such products are not affected by such action of the State Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The sealing of the godown of rice dealers by Delhi Administration and the suspension of business by the Delhi Grain Merchants' Association did have some adverse effect on the smooth flow of rice exports from the country as the market remained closed for a number of days.

(b) The matter was taken up with the Delhi Administration. The Delhi Administration has informed that subject to the satisfaction of legal requirements, the exporters have since been permitted to export rice under their possession.

Merger of Trade Development Authority and Trade Fair Authority

1838. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1030 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd December, 1991 and state by when the merger of Trade Development Authority and Trade Fair Authority of India is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): The Trade